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U.S. EPA REVISION TO THE  
SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD  
GROUND-WATER CONTAMINATION SITE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

Prepared For:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region V  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7367

TAT-05-G2-01521

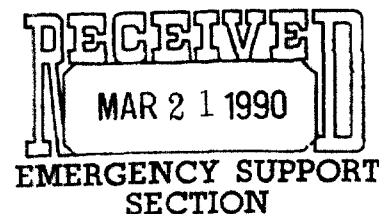
TDD NO. 5-8909-23

Prepared By:

WESTON-MAJOR PROGRAMS DIVISION  
Technical Assistance Team  
Region V

MARCH 1990

US 00265





UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION V  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

**ABOUT THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM**

Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, known as "Superfund") in 1980, to respond to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) administers the Superfund program.

Depending on the urgency of the threat or potential threat to the public and environment, U.S. EPA can respond in two ways: remedial actions are taken when long-term actions are required to clean up a site; removal actions are begun in cases of imminent danger to the public and environment. The objective of each is to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of hazardous substances. A variety of factors are considered in selecting either the remedial or removal line of action.

CERCLA established a trust fund to help pay for investigation and clean up of the hazardous waste sites. Superfund monies are used when parties responsible for the site contamination are unknown, unwilling or incapable of satisfactorily resolving the environmental problem. In addition, U.S. EPA can reimburse the trust fund by taking legal action to recover its clean up costs from those identified as responsible parties.

Literature discussing the Superfund processes is available in the Information Repository for this site. The Information Repository is located at:

The Ken-Rock Community Center  
3218 11th Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61109  
(217) 398-8864

Schedule: Monday - Thursday  
          9:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
          Friday  
          9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
          Saturday  
          9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
          Sunday  
          Closed

US 00266

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
EMERGENCY AND ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE BRANCH  
REVISION TO THE  
SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD GROUND-WATER CONTAMINATION SITE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

U.S. EPA INVOLVEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD GROUND-WATER  
CONTAMINATION SITE

In the summer of 1989, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) began implementing the recommendations of the 90-Day Study of Superfund Management. The implementation plan called for re-evaluation of Superfund sites on the **National Priorities List (NPL)**. The conditions at NPL sites are considered health threats, but are not always deemed immediate threats to public health and the environment. If conditions at the sites are not considered to be imminently threatening, the sites are subject to long-term study and cleanup through the **Superfund Remedial Program**.

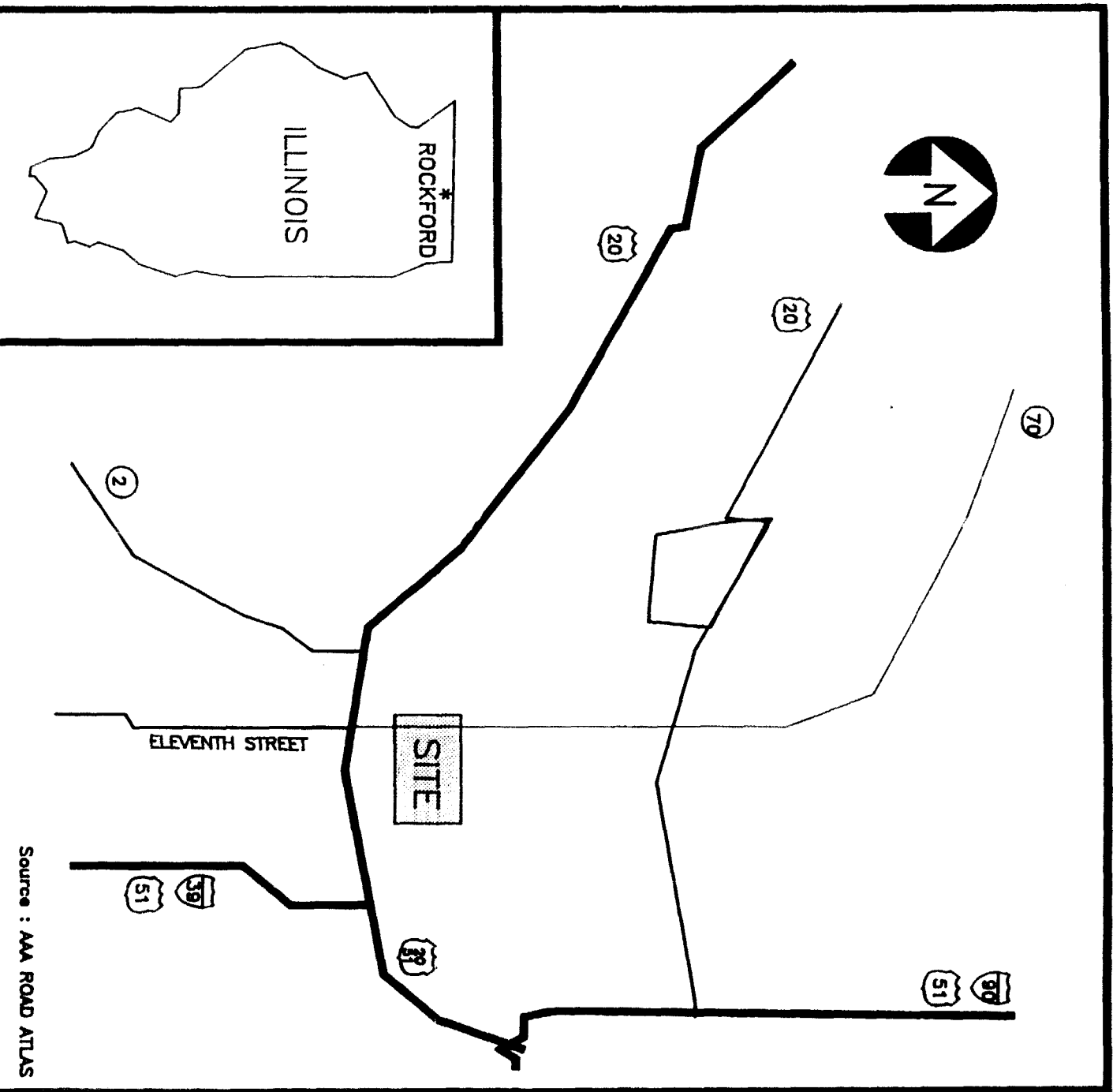
The 90-Day Superfund Management Review was initiated by U.S. EPA Administrator William K. Reilly to determine if conditions at NPL sites pose health hazards which could imminently threaten public health and the environment (A Management Review of the Superfund Program, 1989). If such threats should be found to exist at an NPL site, the U.S. EPA **Removal Program** would be able to take

immediate action to alleviate these threats.

In March of 1989, the Southeast Rockford Ground-water Contamination site (SE Rockford site), an area which had been identified by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) with ground-water contamination, was added to the NPL. **Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** had been found in the area's ground-water supply. Although the site is listed on the NPL as Southeast Rockford, virtually the entire "site" is outside the incorporated Rockford city limits. However, residences within the site's boundaries do have Rockford mailing addresses.

As a result of the 90-Day review, the drinking water at two homes in the SE Rockford site area was sampled by U.S. EPA in August 1989. Test results indicated the presence of VOCs, with levels of both the cis- and trans- **isomers** of 1,2-Dichloroethene (see Table 1 for definition) exceeding the **Removal Action Level (RAL)**. Because levels above the RAL were present, U.S. EPA's Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch became involved in the SE Rockford site.

During the week of October 2, 1989, U.S. EPA representatives sampled the wells of 78 homes and analyzed the samples for VOCs (see Table 1). The results of this sampling effort, along with IDPH's recent sampling results, were used to determine the extent of contamination. U.S. EPA offered bottled water, which was replaced within five weeks by **carbon filtration systems**, to the residents and neighbors of apartments and homes whose wells



Source : AAA ROAD ATLAS

FIGURE 1  
SITE LOCATION MAP  
SOUTHEAST ROCKFORD SITE  
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS

**WESTON**

MAJOR  
PROGRAMS  
DIVISION

REGION V TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

DRAWN BY	DATE	PCS #
T. DILLARD	03-05-90	2412
APPROVED BY	DATE	TDD #
S. BOSKO	03-05-90	5-8909-23

US 00269

indicated contaminant levels equal to or exceeding 25 percent of the RAL or whose residences were potentially at risk. In total, 158 residences were supplied with alternative drinking water as a result of the first sampling phase.

U.S. EPA implemented a second phase of sampling during the week of October 18, 1989. Twenty-four private wells were sampled at this time. Sampling results indicated no change in the alternative water distribution boundaries as defined by the first sampling phase, but U.S. EPA offered alternative drinking water to the residents of 38 additional residences on the outer edges, or "fringe area", of the boundaries and other residents whose residences were originally believed to be connected to municipal water mains. In total, occupants of 182 residences accepted U.S. EPA's offer of alternative water.

On December 6, 1989, U.S. EPA sampled nine additional wells outside of the former sampling boundaries. Four of the wells sampled had non-detectable levels of VOCs, and the remaining five wells had levels equal to or below 10 percent of the RAL. No change in the boundaries or the total of water recipients were made as a result of this sampling effort.

Future plans for the U.S. EPA Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch's involvement include connecting the residences that are receiving alternative water supplies to municipal water mains. Tentatively, this is projected to occur during the spring of 1990.

## **U.S. EPA COMMUNITY RELATIONS ACTIVITIES**

U.S. EPA Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch representatives attended a series of ten public meetings which were organized by IEPA and held from October 4 to 12, 1989. The representatives spoke on behalf of U.S. EPA and its involvement in the SE Rockford site and distributed a fact sheet (dated "October 1989" - see Attachment A) explaining U.S. EPA's role.

U.S. EPA distributed a second fact sheet (dated "November 1989" - see Attachment A) to approximately 1,900 residences and businesses in and around the SE Rockford site area. The fact sheet contained a map indicating where sampling had taken place and the areas where residents had been offered alternative water supplies by U.S. EPA. Residents whose wells had been sampled also received letters explaining sampling results. Residents were given U.S. EPA contact names and telephone numbers in case they had further questions concerning the SE Rockford site.

In March 1990, U.S. EPA sent a letter to residents explaining results of the second and third sampling phases. Because water distribution boundaries had not changed, a formal fact sheet was deemed unnecessary.

Another fact sheet or letter may be needed for distribution when U.S. EPA implements connection of the residents to the municipal water mains, tentatively scheduled for the spring of 1990. A press conference may also be held in conjunction with this event.

**TABLE 1: MAIN COMPOUNDS DETECTED DURING U.S. EPA SAMPLING \***

COMPOUND	KNOWN HEALTH EFFECTS
<u>1,1-Dichloroethane</u> -	Central nervous system (CNS) depressant (narcotic), contact irritant, drowsiness, liver, kidney damage, and nausea.
<u>1,2-Dichloroethane</u> -	<b>Carcinogen</b> , CNS depressant (narcotic), contact irritant, causes nausea, liver, kidney damage, and drowsiness.
<u>1,2-Dichloroethene</u> - (tested for two different isomers, both cis- and trans-)	Contact irritant, CNS depressant (narcotic).
<u>1,1,1-Trichloroethane</u> -	Contact irritant (especially eyes), CNS depressant (narcotic), and temporary liver and kidney damage.
<u>Trichloroethene (TCE)</u> -	Animal carcinogen, contact irritant, CNS depressant (narcotic).

\* Test results from the Emergency Response Branch of U.S. EPA sampling activities have indicated the presence of these VOCs at varying concentrations. Although testing by IDPH and IEPA indicated the presence of additional compounds, as noted in the attached October 1989 fact sheet, they were found to be present in very low concentrations and therefore not relevant to U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch activities.



## **GLOSSARY**

**Carbon filtration systems** - Water-filtering systems that use activated carbon (treated organic material that attracts contaminants) to remove or lower levels of contaminants in water. There are two types of carbon filtration systems:

1. **Point-of-use** - These units accommodate only individual taps, such as when only drinking and cooking water needs to be filtered. This is the type of system being used at the SE Rockford site.

2. **Whole-house** - These units accommodate all water entering the house and are used when contaminant levels are deemed high enough to present health threats by use in washing and bathing as well as drinking and cooking.

**Carcinogen** - A substance or agent capable of producing or inciting cancer.

**Isomer** - One of two or more molecules (chemical units composed of one or more atoms) having the same number and kind of atoms and hence the same molecular weight, but differing in respect to the arrangement or configuration of the atoms.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - U.S. EPA's list of the top priority hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for federal money for cleanup under Superfund.

**Removal Action Level (RAL)** - Established by U.S. EPA, an RAL is the minimum level of an individual compound in drinking water that must be present to require a Removal Action to alleviate health threat(s) presented by the compound.

**Superfund** - Also known as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Congress enacted CERCLA in 1980 to respond directly to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and the environment. U.S. EPA is responsible for managing Superfund. **Remedial Actions** are taken when long-term actions are required to clean up a site. **Removal Actions** are begun in cases of imminent danger to the public and the environment to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of the hazardous substances. U.S. EPA considers a variety of factors to identify either the remedial or removal line of action.

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** - A group of compounds which are composed of carbon, including materials such as solvents, oils, and pesticides which are generally readily dissolved in water, and which are characterized by their tendency to change into a gaseous state. The VOCs detected at the SE Rockford site are solvents commonly used by industry.

Attachment A

### Notice of Correction

The section entitled "Table 1: VOCs in ground water at SE Rockford site" in the October 1989 SE Rockford Site Superfund Fact Sheet contained several errors ("1,1,1-Trichloroethene" should be "1,1,1-Trichloroethane" and the synonyms in parentheses listed underneath the compound should be omitted) and was also shortened when included in the November 1989 SE Rockford Site Superfund Fact Sheet. Several compounds were removed from the table following U.S. EPA testing in early October 1989 because only very low concentrations of these compounds were detected at this time and they subsequently were not considered relevant to U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch activities. Please refer to page 5 of the preceding community relations plan for the final version of the table.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60604

Illinois, Indiana  
Michigan, Minnesota  
Ohio, Wisconsin

# SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

## Southeast Rockford Ground-water Contamination site Rockford, Illinois

October 1989

This fact sheet . . . . .

- ▷ provides site back-ground/history.
- ▷ reviews removal action.
- ▷ identifies contacts.
- ▷ includes a map of previously tested locations
- ▷ contains a glossary of technical terms.

### Mitigation of contamination underway at Southeast Rockford site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is beginning **mitigation** of contamination at the Southeast Rockford Ground-water Contamination site (SE Rockford site) in Rockford, Illinois. U.S. EPA's Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch became involved in activities at the SE Rockford site as a result of U.S. EPA's 90-Day Management Review of Superfund. Recent testing of wells at the SE Rockford site which was implemented by U.S. EPA indicates that immediate action is necessary to alleviate threats to public health and the environment.

Mitigative activities at the SE Rockford site are being funded with money from Superfund. U.S. EPA is studying the possibility of implementing a cost-recovery action to recover the cleanup costs from the responsible parties.

This fact sheet addresses site background, hazards present, U.S. EPA's role, and mitigative activities. Technical terms will be highlighted in bold print and explained in a glossary.

### Where is the SE Rockford site located?

The SE Rockford site covers approximately two square miles (83 city blocks) and is bordered on the north by Harrison Avenue, on the east by 21st Street, on the

south by Sawyer Avenue, and on the west by 8th Street. The Rock River is located two miles west of this area and is not used as a drinking-water supply. The boundaries of the site are not definitive though, and are open to change if testing results indicate the need.

### What prompted U.S. EPA's Emergency and Enforcement Branch's involvement?

In the summer of 1989, U.S. EPA implemented the 90-Day Management Review of Superfund. The review called for re-evaluation and re-testing at Superfund sites on the National Priorities List (NPL); NPL sites are considered health threats, but are not deemed immediate threats to public health and the environment. They are subject to long-term study and cleanup through the Superfund Remedial Program.

The 90-Day review was initiated in an effort to see whether contamination at NPL sites poses health hazards which could imminently threaten public health and the environment. If such threats should be found to exist at an NPL site, U.S. EPA would be able to take immediate action to remove these threats.

In March of 1989, the SE Rockford site, an area which had been under study

**Table 1: VOCs detected in ground water at SE Rockford site \***

Compound	Known health effects
1. Chloroform - (Trichloromethane)	animal carcinogen, dizziness, mental dullness, contact irritant, liver and kidney damage.
2. 1,1-Dichloroethane -	central nervous system (CNS) depressant, contact irritant, drowsiness, liver and kidney damage.
3. 1,1-Dichlorethene -	contact irritant.
4. 1,2-Dichloroethene - (1,2-Dichlorethylene)	contact irritant, CNS depressant (narcotic).
5. Methylene chloride -	animal carcinogen, CNS depressant, contact irritant, worsen heart problems, fatigue, light-headedness.
6. Tetrachloroethene -	carcinogen, CNS depressant, dizziness, contact irritant.
7. 1,1,1-Trichlorethene - (1,1,1-Trichlorethylene) (1,1,1-Perchloroethylene)	contact irritant (especially eyes), CNS depressant, dizziness, drowsiness.
8. Trichloroethene (TCE) - (Trichloroethylene)	animal carcinogen, contact irritant, CNS depressant.

\* Testing by IDPH and IEPA (1984 through 1989) and U.S. EPA (August 1989) has indicated the presence of these compounds at the SE Rockford site at some point between 1984 and 1989. New testing by U.S. EPA will determine the extent and concentration of contamination.

by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) since 1984 as a ground-water contamination site, was added to the NPL. Volatile organic compounds, or VOCs (see "Health Hazards" section), had been found in the area's ground-water supply.

As a result of the 90-Day review, the drinking water at two homes in the SE Rockford site area was sampled by U.S. EPA in August 1989. Test results indicated the presence of VOCs, with levels of 1,2 dichloroethene exceeding the Removal Action Level (RAL). Because levels above the RAL were present, U.S. EPA's Emergency and Enforcement Branch of Superfund was capable of becoming involved in the SE Rockford site.

## What health hazards are present?

The ground water at the SE Rockford site is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These substances (listed in Table 1) are used in a wide variety of industries, primarily as solvents. Organic solvents are used in the manufacture of paints, lacquers, varnishes, polishes, and pharmaceuticals. They are used as extracting agents for oils, fats, waxes, and other products. They are also used as cleaners, degreasers, and in the dry-cleaning industry. VOCs have varying degrees of toxicity to humans (see Table 1).

Routes of exposure for VOCs are by ingestion (eating and drinking), inhala-

tion, cooking, and dermal or skin contact. Drinking, cooking, and gardening with contaminated water can expose humans by ingestion. Bathing or showering can expose people by skin absorption and vapor inhalation. Steam vapor can also be inhaled by other household activities such as washing dishes and clothes, and using air humidifiers.

## What immediate action will U.S. EPA be taking?

U.S. EPA will be performing matrix sampling, meaning water samples will be taken only from wells which have been carefully selected because of their location. Sampling will be performed in several stages, or rounds, and approximately 50 homes will be sampled during

the first round. Several wells per block will be selected, and sampling will begin the week of October 2, 1989. U.S. EPA will sample approximately 200 wells between October and December 1989. U.S. EPA will not be able to honor requests for sampling.

U.S. EPA will use prior data from the IDPH to help determine which wells should be tested, but U.S. EPA cannot use the old test results to determine the extent of contamination today. To ensure accuracy and consistency of results, U.S. EPA has to oversee all sampling, and analysis has to be done at the same laboratory. Prior test results also will not indicate changes that have occurred over time in concentration and direction of ground-water flow.

## How will I know if anything's wrong with my water?

U.S. EPA will be testing for VOCs and will supply carbon filtering systems or bottled water to residents of private homes and apartments whose wells are found to contain contaminants exceeding

their individual RALs. Commercial establishments will not be supplied with water by U.S. EPA. Letters explaining test results will be sent to everyone whose well has been tested.

Because of the great amount of care taken in selecting wells to be sampled and by studying their test results, U.S. EPA will be able to determine the extent of contamination in nearby wells that haven't been sampled. Bottled water or filtering systems will be supplied to residents based on sampling done in the near vicinity. Bottled water or filtering systems will be offered to residents by U.S. EPA and will be distributed via a private contractor immediately after test results indicate the need — residents will not have to wait until all testing has been completed.

## Will bottled or filtered water be the final solution to the problem?

Because bottled water and filtering systems require constant attention and are costly, U.S. EPA can only recommend

these methods as short-term solutions to the SE Rockford site's problem. The only logical long-term solution to the area's problem can be achieved by connection to the municipal water system. Depending on the levels and kinds of contaminants found, the possibility exists that U.S. EPA could fund this work. Residents will be updated on a continuous, timely basis on developments taking place in this area.

## What happens to wells with contaminant levels that do not exceed the RAL?

Residents whose wells have contaminant levels that do not exceed the RAL, but which are high enough to pose a long-term health risk cannot be aided by Superfund's Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch. Their test results will be given to IEPA and the Superfund Remedial and Enforcement Response Branch for further study towards a solution. IEPA and the Remedial Program also will attempt to find the source of the contamination, or the potentially responsible parties.

## U.S. EPA contacts

**Ken Theisen**  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA - ERU  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 886-1959

**MaryAnn Croce**  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs 5PA-14  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 886-1728

If you would like to be placed on the SE Rockford site mailing list, please contact MaryAnn Croce at the above address. Please include your name, address, phone number, and affiliation to the site. Questions about the SE Rockford site can be answered using the U.S. EPA Toll Free Number: 1-800-572-2515, Monday-Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., central time.

## Glossary

**Mitigation** - The act of making something less severe or harsh.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - U.S. EPA's list of the top priority hazardous waste sites in the country that are eligible for federal money for cleanup under Superfund.

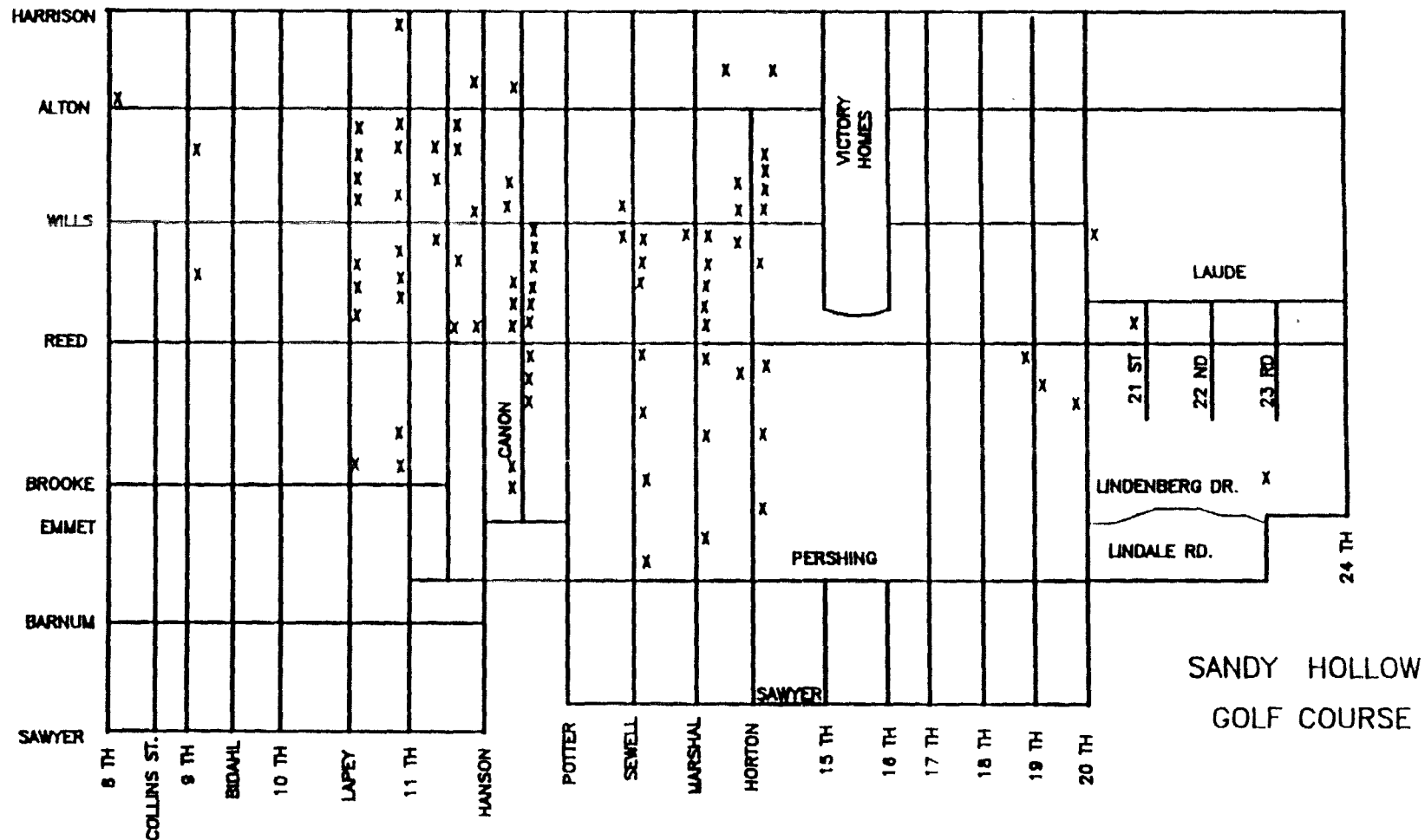
**Potentially responsible parties** - An organization or individual who may be responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of waste at a site, or the site's owner or operator.

**Removal Action Level (RAL)** - The minimum level of an individual compound in drinking water that has to be present to require a Removal Action to alleviate health threat(s)

presented by the compound.

**Superfund** - Also known as Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Congress enacted CERCLA in 1980 to respond directly to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and the environment. U.S. EPA is responsible for managing Superfund. **Remedial Actions** are taken when long-term actions are required to clean up a site. **Removal Actions** are begun in cases of imminent danger to the public and the environment to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of the hazardous substances. U.S. EPA considers a variety of factors to identify either the remedial or removal line of action.

# SE Rockford site previous sampling locations\*



\* The symbol "X" indicates wells with notable contamination levels revealed by IEPA and IDPH testing between 1984 and 1989.





US 00281



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Office of Public Affairs  
Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60605

Illinois, Indiana  
Michigan, Minnesota  
Ohio, Wisconsin

## SUPERFUND FACT SHEET

### Southeast Rockford Ground-water Contamination site Rockford, Illinois

November 1989

This fact sheet . . . . .

- addresses U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch activities.
- contains a map of the SE Rockford site.
- contains a glossary of technical terms.
- lists U.S. EPA contacts.

#### U.S. EPA is continuing activities to alleviate immediate health threats at the SE Rockford site

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch is continuing mitigative activities, actions that make something less severe or harsh to the public or the environment, at the Southeast Rockford Ground-water Contamination site (SE Rockford site) in Rockford, Illinois. These activities are being funded as a removal action with money from Superfund.*

*This Fact Sheet addresses U.S. EPA activities and contains a map which illustrates levels of contamination revealed by the first sampling phase performed by U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch. Technical terms will be highlighted in bold print and explained in a glossary.*

#### U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch involvement

During the week of October 2, 1989, representatives of U.S. EPA sampled the wells of 78 homes and tested the samples for specific **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**. The results of this sampling effort are being used to determine the levels and extent of contamination (see map, inside), and helping to provide a basis for determining the appropriate remediation, or long-term solution.

Concurrently, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has been and will continue sampling private wells in the SE Rockford site area on a request basis. Results from IDPH's recent sampling efforts are being used, along with U.S. EPA's initial sampling results, to determine the extent and levels of contamination and future sampling locations.

As defined by law, the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch can only take action where immediate health treats are present. People whose wells have lower contaminant levels that could present a health threat over a lifetime of exposure will be aided by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Superfund Remedial and Enforcement Response Branch.

#### U.S. EPA offers bottled water

As a result of U.S. EPA's first sampling phase, U.S. EPA has offered bottled water as a temporary precautionary measure to residents whose test results have indicated VOC levels which reach or exceed 50 percent of a particular compound's Removal Action Level (RAL). The RAL is the minimum level of an individual compound that must be present in drinking water to require a

**Removal Action** to alleviate immediate health threat(s) presented by the compound. Bottled water has also been offered to certain neighbors near the contaminated wells.

Residents whose wells have contaminant levels that do not exceed 50 percent of the RAL, but whose homes lie in the path of ground-water flow are also eligible for assistance from the Emergency Response Branch of U.S. EPA. All residents whose wells have been sampled, including those who do not need to receive bottled water, will be sent copies of the test results as soon as possible. Homes which have contaminant levels below 50 percent of the RAL and/or do not lie in the path of ground-water flow direction are not eligible for assistance by the Emergency Response Branch of U.S. EPA. These test results will be given to IEPA and the U.S. EPA Remedial Response Branch for continued action towards a solution to the possible long-term health threat. IEPA and the Remedial Response Branch also will attempt to find the source of the contamination and the potentially responsible parties.

The U.S. EPA implemented a second phase of sampling during the

week of October 23, 1989. Test results from this effort will determine whether further phases of sampling will be needed, and if so, where. If test results indicate the need, bottled water will be offered to residents and their neighbors. These residents will be contacted immediately after U.S. EPA recognizes the need.

### **Future activities at the SE Rockford site**

Bottled water is seen only as a temporary solution to the imminent health threats presented by the SE Rockford site. Because of high cost and inconvenience related to bottled water, carbon filtration systems (which are as effective, and in some instances more effective than bottled water) usually are installed after U.S. EPA has had additional time to study the problem and can accurately determine the levels and location of contamination. The U.S. EPA will install carbon filtration systems and undertake additional sampling during the next phase of activities.

Connection of the residents to the

municipal water system is being looked into as the permanent solution to the immediate problem being addressed by the Emergency Response Branch of U.S. EPA. It is uncertain if U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch will be able to fund this work, but residents will be informed of these developments.

### **U. S. EPA contacts**

**Ken Theisen**  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. EPA - ERU  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 886-1959

**MaryAnn Croce LaFaire**  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs 5PA-14  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
(312) 886-1728

### **U.S. EPA toll free number**

Monday - Friday  
9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
Central Time

**1-800-572-2515**



Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use  
\$300

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs (5PA-14)  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**Table 1: Main compounds detected during U.S. EPA sampling\***

Compound	Known health effects
1. 1,1-Dichloroethane -	Central nervous system (CNS) depressant (narcotic), contact irritant, drowsiness, liver and kidney damage.
2. 1,2-Dichloroethane - (Ethylene dichloride)	Carcinogen, CNS depressant (narcotic), contact irritant, causes nausea, liver and kidney damage.
3. 1,2-Dichloroethene - (tested for two different isomers, both cis- and trans-)	Contact irritant, CNS depressant (narcotic).
4. 1,1,1-Trichloroethane -	Contact irritant (especially eyes), CNS depressant (narcotic).
5. Trichloroethene (TCE) -	Animal carcinogen, contact irritant, CNS depressant (narcotic).

\*Test results from the Emergency Response Branch of U.S. EPA sampling activities have indicated the presence of these VOCs at varying levels. This table represents findings only from U.S. EPA's first phase of sampling.

## Information Repository

If you would like additional information about the SE Rockford site, you may consult the Information Repository located at the address listed below. The Information Repository contains information about the Superfund program, technical documents, and all other available information concerning the site.

### **The Ken-Rock Community Center**

Contact: Cherene Sweeny

General Office

3218 11th Street

Rockford, Illinois 61109

(815) 378-8864

### **HOURS**

Monday - Thursday  
9 A.M. - 9 P.M.

Friday  
9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Saturday  
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Closed Sunday

**US 00284**

## Glossary

**Carbon filtration system** - A water-filtering system that uses activated carbon (treated material that attracts contaminants) to remove or lower levels of contaminants in water. There are two types of carbon filtration systems:

1. **Point-of-use** - These units accommodate only individual taps, such as when only drinking and cooking water needs to be filtered.
2. **Whole-house** - These units accommodate all water entering the house and are used when contaminant levels are deemed high enough to present health threats by use in washing and bathing.

**Carcinogen** - A substance or agent producing or inciting cancer.

**Potentially responsible parties** - An organization or individual who may be responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of waste at a site, or the site's owner or operator.

**Superfund** - Also known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Congress enacted CERCLA in 1980 to respond directly to hazardous waste problems that may pose a threat to the public and the environment. U.S. EPA is responsible for managing Superfund. Remedial Actions are taken when

long-term actions are required to clean up a site. **Removal Actions** are begun in cases of imminent danger to the public and the environment to bring the situation under control by stabilizing or stopping the release of the hazardous substances. U.S. EPA considers a variety of factors to identify either the remedial or removal line of action.

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** - A group of compounds which are composed of carbon, including materials such as solvents, oils, and pesticides which are generally readily dissolved in water, and which are characterized by their tendency to change into a gaseous state.

## Mailing List Opportunity

To be placed on the mailing list to receive information regarding the SE Rockford site, please complete and mail this form to:

MaryAnn Croce LaFaire  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs SPA-14  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
230 South Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60604



Please place my name on the SE Rockford site mailing list.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFILIATION (check one): Resident \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

US 00285

### Site location

The SE Rockford site covers approximately two-square miles and is bordered on the north by Harrison Avenue, on the east by 24th Street, on the south by Sandy Hollow Road, and on the west by 8th Street.

These boundaries only indicate where the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch has performed sampling and do not indicate that all homes or businesses within this area are affected by ground-water contamination. These borders are not definitive and are subject to change if test results indicate the need.

Some homes and businesses that are within the boundaries are already connected to the municipal water supply and are not affected by the ground-water contamination.

### Removal action level (RAL)

The RAL is the minimum level of an individual compound in drinking water that must be present to require a Removal Action to alleviate immediate health threat(s) presented by the compound.

### Legend

Indicates area where residents have been offered bottled water by the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Branch

- ▲ Above 50% of the RAL
- △ Between 25 and 50% of the RAL
- Below 25% of the RAL
- No detection

